

PROS & CONS

Language Function:	discussing issues; reading comprehension
Vocabulary/Topic:	cheating in sport; cheating and tricking; sport
Grammar Issue:	narrative tenses: past simple; past continuous; past perfect

	advanced
	upper-intermediate
	intermediate
	pre-intermediate

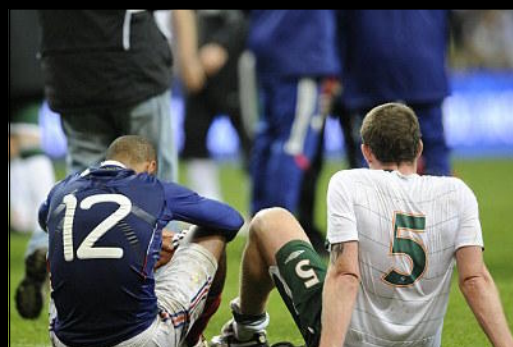
focus on talking

Activity 1. Discuss these questions in pairs or small groups.

- ▶ Would you call Henry's double handball "blatant cheating" or an "instinctive reaction"? Why?
- ▶ Have you lost all respect for Thierry Henry? Why yes or why not?
- ▶ What would *you* have done if you had been in Henry's situation?
- ▶ Do you agree that Thierry Henry missed the perfect opportunity to produce an act of genuine sportsmanship?
- ▶ To what extent is cheating in sport justified? The moral of Thierry Henry's story is that you can cheat as long as you don't get caught? Do you agree with such an opinion?

In an incident reminiscent of Diego Maradona's infamous Hand of God goal against England in 1986, Thierry Henry shocked the football world with his handball assist for the goal that ended Ireland's World Cup hopes. The referee didn't see his double handball, and Henry didn't own up to it while the match was still in progress.

After the match, he admitted controlling the ball with his hand, but fell short of fully apologising for what many fans have viewed as blatant cheating: "I will be honest, it was a handball, but I'm not the ref. It would have been better to do it in another way, but as I said, I'm not the ref."

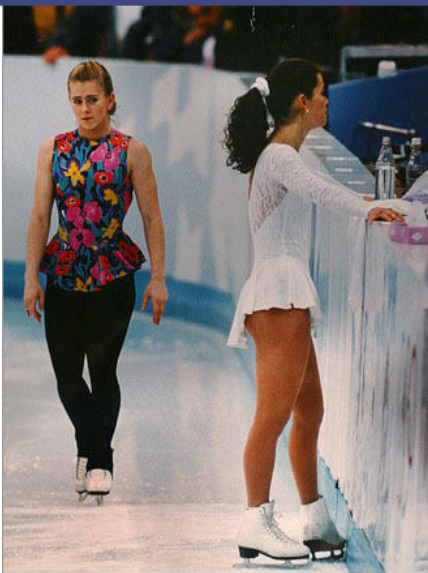


focus on comprehension

Activity 2. Read the texts and decide which of the following dishonest acts you find most appalling?

Famous Cheats

It is amazing how far athletes will go to fulfill their dreams of victory. While some would be willing to work hard to beat their rivals, others have shown no problem with cheating.



Tonya Harding's Plot

On 6 January 1994, Nancy Kerrigan was practicing for the U.S Figure Skating championships. She was 1. (leave) the ice when a man 2. (assault) her with a club.

Forced to drop out of the competition, she recovered in time to compete for the U.S. at the Olympics in Lillehammer. In February, Kerrigan joined teammate Tonya Harding at the Olympic Village.

Then came the shocking news that Kerrigan's assailant had 3. (hire) by Harding's ex-husband and her bodyguard. Since Harding had not been formally charged with a crime, she 4. (allow) to compete. However, Tonya didn't skate well and finished eight. Kerrigan, on the other hand, turned in a nearly flawless performance, winning the silver medal.



Harlequins 'Blood-gate' Scandal

In rugby, once substituted, players cannot be replaced, but a player who leaves the pitch for a blood injury can return to the field of play later on.

Planning to take a full advantage of this rule, Harlequin's director, Dean Richards 5. (order) Steph Brennan, club physiotherapist to purchase a pack of blood capsules before a Heineken Cup match against Leinster.

During the match, Brennan handed the fake blood capsule to Quins full-back Tom Williams. The player put it in his sock and tried to use it to fake an injury after a contact situation. Unfortunately for him, when he tried to bite on it, the capsule 6. (fall) out of his mouth, forcing him to pick it up and try the whole process again in full view of the sold-out stadium and television cameras.



Spain's Paralympic Disgrace

At the 2000 Summer Paralympics in Sydney, after beating Russia 87-65 in the final, Spain's intellectual disability basketball team won gold medals. However, it 7. (not/take) long before the Spanish team had to part with their precious trophies.

Shortly after the Games closed, Carlos Ribagorda, a member of the team and an undercover journalist, revealed that most of his colleagues (not/undergo) medical tests to ensure that they had a disability.

A subsequent inquiry found that 10 of the 12-strong squad suffered no handicap.



Fine Cotton Affair

In August 1984, Fine Cotton, a horse of very limited abilities, 8. (win) narrowly a race at Eagle Farm, Brisbane. Immediately after the race, several members of the crowd began to shout "ring-in". Racing stewards were also suspicious of the dramatic improvement made by Fine Cotton and launched an immediate investigation.

Finally, it turned out that before the race, Fine Cotton 9. (substitute) illegally by Bold Personality, a much better racing horse. Substituting the horses was not an easy task. The horses differed in age and colour. Reportedly Clairol hair colouring was applied to Bold Personality. But on race day, someone forgot to bleach his legs to match Fine Cotton, so white paint 10. (apply).



Formula 1 'Crash-gate' Scandal

On 28 September 2008, on the fourteenth lap of the Singapore race, the Formula 1 car driven by Nelson Piquet, Jr. 11. (crash) into the circuit wall, necessitating a safety car deployment. The other Renault driver, Fernando Alonso, subsequently went on to win the race.

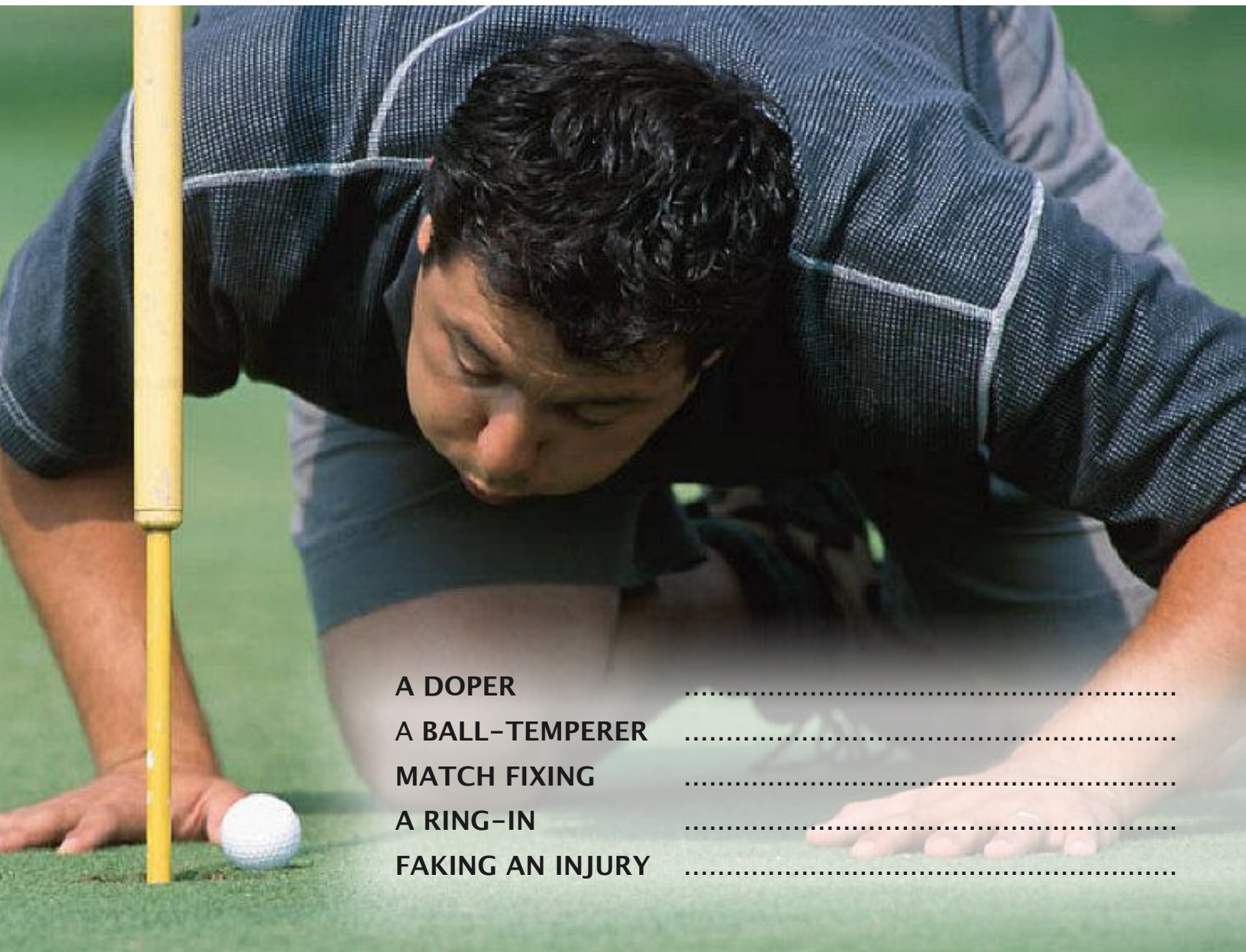
At first, Piquet described his crash as a simple mistake, but after being dropped by the Renault team, Piquet admitted that he 12. (ask) by the team to deliberately crash to improve the race situation for Alonso.

focus on grammar

Activity 3. Put the verbs in **FAMOUS CHEATS** texts into the Past Simple, Past Continuous or Past Perfect tense. Use both active and passive forms of the tenses.

focus on vocabulary: cheating in sport

Activity 4. Explain the following terms.



A DOPER

A BALL-TEMPERER

MATCH FIXING

A RING-IN

FAKING AN INJURY

focus on vocabulary

Activity 5. Find these words and expressions on previous pages of this lesson.

PAGE 1

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|---------|---|
| 1. | done openly and without shame; very obvious |
| 2. | based on instinct, not on reasoning |
| 3. | fair behaviour when playing a sport or game |
| 4. | reminding or suggesting something or someone |
| 5. | to admit that one is to blame for something |
| 6. | to fail to reach a desired standard or target |

PAGE 2

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| 7. | a heavy stick |
| 8. | a person who attacks someone |
| 9. | perfect; without fault |
| 10. | a sports ground or field |
| 11. | to pretend to experience something |
| 12. | full; not having any seats available |

PAGE 3

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| 13. | the state of not being able to use one's body or mind normally |
| 14. | an object that is awarded as a prize |
| 15. | doing things secretly |
| 16. | a serious physical or mental condition that affects one's ability to do things |
| 17. | to cause something (e.g. hair) to become lighter |
| 18. | a single circuit of a track or racecourse |
| 19. | the act of using something, bringing it to action |
| 20. | intentionally |